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THE COMMERCIAL, PITTSBURGH.

CITY ITEMS.

Best Goods and Lowest Prices,
Opera House Shoe Store.

The Great Sale of Dry Goods,
At Wholesale and Retail commences this day at J. W. Barker & Co.'s, 59 Market street.

Pure Old Rye Whisky
The finest in this country, for medicinal purposes, at McClarran & McKennan's Drug Store No. 85 Market street, corner Diamond near Fifth street.

The Great Sale of Dry Goods,
At Wholesale and Retail, commences this day at J. W. Barker & Co.'s, 59 Market street.

Best English Soda Ash.
We have just received a cask of the finest grade imported, and sold very cheap at McClarran & McKennan's Drug Store, 85 Market street, corner Diamond near Fifth street.

The Great Sale of Dry Goods,
At Wholesale and Retail, commences this day at J. W. Barker & Co.'s, 59 Market street.

Within Thirty Days
Many will be out of employment, and soon without credit. By a small investment in "Liming's Improved Stove Damper," you will insure a lucrative business for months to come. Call and see it at 11 Fifth street. 1f8

The Great Sale of Dry Goods,
At Wholesale and Retail, commences this day at J. W. Barker & Co.'s, 59 Market street.

Cod Liver Oil.
The purest and sweetest Cod Liver Oil in the world manufactured from fresh, healthy livers, upon the sea shore; it is perfectly pure and sweet. Ask for Hazard & Caswell's Cod Liver Oil, manufactured by Caswell, Mack & Co., New York. Sold by all druggists. nol4-sm—M-W-S

The Great Sale of Dry Goods,
At Wholesale and Retail, commences this day at J. W. Barker & Co.'s, 59 Market street.

The Daily Commercial

THE Legislature of New York snows signs of repealing the anti-free pass law of last winter.

THE Legislature has repealed the law giving five per cents to the receiver of unpaid taxes in Philadelphia.

THE authorities of Boston are carrying on a stiff crusade against all places that sell liquor. A prominent hotel keeper has made a proposition, which is received with favor, to close all the hotels, if it is continued.

THE Congressional Investigating Committee have found the evidence of extensive frauds in the New York Custom House. One individual made $90,000 over his salary—and it was not a good season for stealing either!

THE WHISKY TAX.—Notwithstanding the enormous frauds on the revenue by distillers which have come to light, it is stated at the Internal Revenue Bureau that the receipts of duties from this source are three times as large as last year. It is expected that the vigorous efforts which are being made to detect and prevent those frauds, will cause the amount of tax collected to be still further largely increased.

OIL MATTERS AT TIDIOUTE.

Special Dispatch to Pittsburgh Commercial.

WASHINGTON, January 6, 1867.

Pittsburgh Operators in Luck—The Production of the Tidioute Regions Increasing.

The Tidioute *correspondent* of the Oil City *Register*, writing on the 3d inst., gives the following interesting intelligence from this comparatively new and productive portion of the oil regions of Pennsylvania:

The Limestone Oil Company, on the Economite tract, have three wells just started, and the prospects are remarkably good. A new well on the same tract, owned by Messrs. Hanson & Roberts, is producing about one hundred barrels per day.

There are several new wells being tested on the H. Allen tract; indications very flattering.

The "Siesta" well, on lease No. 20, Captain Goodrich, superintendent, was struck on the 23d ult., and is pumping one hundred barrels per day.

The "Brooklyn" well, on lease No. 18, also under Captain Goodrich's management, is doing 200 barrels per day.

Well on lease No. 287, on the Triumph Oil Company's property, owned by West & Boughton, is pumping 150 barrels per day.

Lease No 239, owned principally by Solomon Sheep, of Pittsburgh, is doing well, the well which is pumping 100 barrels.

A well on lease No 24, owned by James O'Connor and Robert Finley, of Pittsburgh, is pumping 240 barrels per day.

A well on lease No. 1, owned by G. W. Woodworth, of Cleveland, is doing 200 barrels.

Well No. 236, owned by Mr. Bly of Pithole, is doing 225 barrels per day, and is the "second best" well on the tract.

There are 22 wells on this tract now going down and some at present from 25 to 500 feet in depth, most of them, however, are down between 400 and 500 feet. As soon as water, owing to the pipes being frozen up, is causing some delay.

We next come to the Pierce & Neynart tract, which for its size is one of the most productive tracts in this or neighboring oil fields. It consists of 8 acres, and they have eight wells now down, and progressing as follows: The Goodrich well is producing 300 barrels; the Pierce well, 300 bbls; No. 8 well, 300 bbls; Pomroy well, 150 bbls; the "Corner & Pierce" well is testing; the well is testing; No. 7 is being rigged; the Dorr & Bakeman well is testing and making a fine show. Eight more we'll go on this tract will be tested by the first of February.

Allen Run, capable of holding 13,000 barrels of oil is now building, and will be finished about the middle of February. There is no difficulty now in getting oil to the river, as their oil is all conveyed through a welcome pipe, and is now able to congeal as although in summer pipes.

TELEGRAPHIC SUMMARY.

From Baltimore we learn that the movement in the Legislature has not assailed the State government, or order a new election for the purpose of removing all disabilities from the few disfranchised portion of the people of the State, by a passage of the general act of amnesty, and by the enactment of a less stringent registry law, gives great pleasure to the opponents of the existing city government. A new Constitutional Convention will speedily be called, and in present Constitutional matters will materially assist.

A collision occurred near Taunton, Mass., on Saturday, between two passenger trains. Two persons were seriously injured.

Mrs. Fanny Willard, fashion editress of the New York *Sunday Mercury*, murdered Coachman Thomas W. Burke, who afterwards shot and killed himself. Love and jealousy are the causes. Mrs. Willard had rejected his suit.

The receipts from Internal Revenue on Saturday were $863,628; total receipts for the week, $2,000,000.

A banquet in honor of the fifty-second anniversary of the battle of New Orleans will take place at the National Hotel, Washington, to-morrow evening. The President, the Cabinet, and Grant and many other distinguished officers have been invited.

The issue of circulation to the National banks for the week ending on the 5th inst., $18,000; amount issued to date, $300,755,351, from this should be deducted currency returned including worn out notes, to the amount of 145,962, leaving in actual circulation $298,-612. The Treasurer of the United States has given the amount of legal tenders issued. National Bank circulation, $849,383,190; for postorites of public money, $28,993,959; total, $377,376,109. Of one to two dollar United States notes there were issued to the United States depository at Baltimore, $2,000; to the Assistant Treasury at Charleston, South Carolina, $1,000. The disbursements of the week for the particulars were as follows: Navy, $1,282,000; Army, $174,437; Interior, $25,066—total, $1,481,-

The District Suffrage bill having originated in the Senate, the President's veto will go to that body to day, this being the last day allowed by the Constitution, in which he can veto the bills. There seems no doubt that he will send in a veto message.

The overcoats contributed by Roberts for the Indian prisoners in Canada, have been detained in the Custom House, the duty not having been paid on them.

The Co-operative Iron Works, St. Louis, was destroyed by fire Friday morning.

The steamers for Europe on Saturday took nearly $100,000 in specie.

The confederation will not be proclaimed in Canada before May next.

A horrible murder was perpetrated on the corner T. L. McGill, on Friday, while lying at Madrid, Mo. An old man, named A. G

The Daily Commercial

MONDAY, JANUARY 7, 1867.

So MUCH of the report made by Mr. WELLS as relates to prices of labor and products, will be found in our columns today and read with interest. The new Tariff Bill, submitted by the same gentleman, will also be found in the COMMERCIAL to day.

THE Veto Message of President JOHNSON on the District Suffrage Bill having been completed and read to the Cabinet, may be expected at an early day. It is an elaborate document, but will not prove equal to the power of numbers, faithful to correct ideas, in the two Houses of Congress.

IT is probable that there will be offered in Congress, and pushed to a vote, a resolution declaring that loyal Members and Senators will be immediately admitted from such States as ratify the amendment; declaring, virtually, the finality of that measure. It will be a grave question, and should not be decided hastily. The reasons in favor for the earliest restoration of the States are numerous and weighty,—but the manner of their restoration will effect the country for all time.

THE caucus of the Republican Senators and Members at Harrisburg will be held on Thursday evening of this week. A Washington telegram asserts that THADDEUS STEVENS has consented to visit the State Capital in furtherance of his own chances for the nomination for Senator. It is intimated at the same time, that GOVERNOR CURTIN will decline in his favor, but this, we are authorized to say, is not true. The strongest competitor and the popular favorite, why should he? Let his friends everywhere rally to his support.

THE SENATORIAL QUESTION AT HARRISBURG.

Concerning the canvass for United States Senator [illegible] the telegraph and correspondence have received from that quarter concur on one point; and that is, if the unscrupulous use of money may be relied on, the friends of SIMON CAMERON do not miscalculate the chances when they claim that his election is tolerably certain. The question is simply—do they judge wisely as to the power and probable result of the influence they are so lavishly employing?

It is undoubtedly a fact, that certain Senators and Members started out CAMERON men, because they sincerely believed that of the candidates named he was most worthy of the position. They will go through to the end for him, and suspicion will not necessarily attach to their motives. But others there are, who started out opposed to him, who were instructed for CURTIN, whose fidelity was not doubted, and who were confidently relied on to prove faithful to those instructions, and pay a just regard to unmistakable popular sentiment,—but who, since they arrived in Harrisburg, have strangely shown a disposition to prove recreant to their professions and pledges, to violate the instructions of their constituents and act in total disregard of what was expected from them as men of honor. Should they persist to the end in this course, and finally vote for CAMERON, nothing on earth can save them, for all time to come, from the imputation of having been bought with money or the promise of it.

We make no specifications now—*the time for that has not come yet.* Not to be more explicit at this time, we will say, the reports as to men and amounts are numerous and concurrent. These reports doubtless do injustice to some honest men, who are the exceptions, and should not be included among those who have undergone a change as sudden as it is remarkable. The fact shows how dangerous it is for honest men even to support for any station, a man whose history affords a thousand reasons for the belief that he is unscrupulous as to the means he employs, and utterly corrupt.

Few men can expect to survive the odium of supporting SIMON CAMERON, in direct violation of their professions, in flagrant disregard of the instructions of their constituents, and in contempt of public opinion. They who shall do so, will speedily and surely dig their political graves, do that which will go far to insure the scorn of honorable men, and raise a cloud over their memory so long as it shall live.

Let men be warned, and pause while yet they may. They who act from honest motives—who have no price nor the expectation or promise of pay for their votes—who violate no pledges, whose action will involve no necessity for explaining a conversion little less than miraculous,—Senators and members of this class, will know they are not meant; but they who violate solemn pledges, who disregard deliberate instructions, who become strangely changed in a twinkling, as by a secret influence, may be very sure that they are meant; and not one of them should flatter himself that he can ever escape being consigned, by a record that will always live, that will continually glare upon him till life's close, among those who in public station were mercenary and faithless.

—In dividing on the election of Speaker, the opponents of CAMERON—then confessedly in the majority—committed a grave blunder. At that time, Governor CURTIN was, as he is now, the strongest of CAMERON's competitors. That any opponent of CAMERON's should under such circumstances, do anything to weaken CURTIN, were indeed strange tactics. Leading to CAMERON votes to defeat QUAY, so that CURTIN might be dwarfed, in the belief that a new combination might be made, was a great if not a fatal error. QUAY's defeat became a CAMERON triumph, and they who to consummate it were loaned to him, it is said, and generally believed, have been furnished reasons why they should not return to their former allegiance. The gravity of the mistake—now clearly perceived—fixes the measure of the responsibility attaching to it.

But it may not be too late, and the error may be retrieved. It is clear as anything ever was that Gov. CURTIN is the people's man. Popular sentiment, manifested in a variety of ways, is unequivocally in his favor,—and it is equally clear that public opinion—moral and political—is as unequivocally opposed to SIMON CAMERON. Let divisions be healed, and let the voice of the people be not stifled. Transcendant moral and political considerations lay their commands on Senators and Members—commands which, if men have any regard for their future, either in public or private life, will not be disregarded. The ill-judged diversion, of which we have spoken, need not necessarily prove fatal. It certainly will not, if the spirit of folly rules the hour—if there be not a monstrous disregard of what is clearly wise—if there be not total and unblushing faithlessness to personal professions and pledges—wanton disregard of party instructions and public opinion—and a wholesale violation, attended by unparalleled recklessness as to consequences, of every principle of moral and political rectitude.

WE do not see why Roman Catholic people should be so concerned about the Pope's loss of the temporal power. It has become a small thing, any way, in these modern days, and there is enough for him to do, in the religious duties of his station. But the loss of the temporal power is accompanied by this pleasant condition, that it will make him more like St. PETER than before, because he will now, like PETER, have to pay tribute to secular government. We should think he would be glad to get rid of such a burden and terror, as his Italian people have been to him for the past sixteen or eighteen years. It will be much more convenient for VICTOR EMANUEL to rule over them, and they will behave better towards him, than they have toward PIO NONO.

SYSTEM IN RAILROAD TRANSPORTATION.

There is nothing like system. Backed by enterprise, it is able to accomplish wonders. A Committee of the Ohio Legislature is inspecting the system of *railroad freighting business*, as carried on and through that State. Some very curious developments have been made. Among them is one which we should suppose would be very interesting to stockholders in the roads, and to persons using the roads for the transportation of their products to market. From this it appears that the stockholders who furnish the road, and the shippers who supply the business, are both severely fleeced, for the profit of the officers who work and manage the roads.

The system for accomplishing this is represented as having several different methods embraced in it. In all, what are denominated freight companies, play a prominent part. These lease or charter the cars of the railroad, and then, as the railroad cannot carry the freight for want of cars, the freight companies does it at such prices as is satisfactory to itself, and the profit is divided in such a way that only a small proportion goes to the stockholders, while shippers pay exorbitant prices. This is, of course, not known by stockholders in roads till it is developed by investigation. It is well observed by the Chicago *Tribune*, which has given a long article on the subject:

> "The stockholders who pocket a beggerly three per cent every six months do not perhaps know that other men do freight business over their roads that pays five hundred per cent. per annum. Stockholders do not know that when the corporation barely covers expenses, it profits us the road and make fortunes. Stockholders do not know, perhaps, that the freight companies never lose cases, to the tune of dollars a hundred, but will trump cost [illegible] cuts and the [illegible] dollars a hundred; but they understand how it is that the companies which pay no dividends to the million has dividends of hundreds, while officers salaries by the thousand roll up fortunes by the million."

Another method of making a penny by attention to system is, to buy all the coal or other products destined, by rail, to a market, and make all the profit, not to the stockholders, by transportation, but to themselves by trade, with this grand advantage in their favor, that having absolute control of transportation, they can fix the price low at the buying end, and fix it high at the selling end of the road, refusing transportation to those who will not sell to them at *their* price. Again, freights are, at intermediate points, turned off from their regular lines upon roads where the profits are divided with the parties at the point of divergence. This is said to be done, even when the shipper has made his contract and designated the line of transportation.

It is not the stockholders and shippers alone who feel the effects of this wonderful system. It adds materially to the cost of all articles of living that have to be moved long distances to reach their consumers. The charges for shipping, handling freight, &c., are added, along with several intermediate profits, to be paid ultimately by the person who makes the last purchase and converts the article to use. It is this system which enriches a few persons, by raising the price of means of living to the millions of our country, and this too, without advantage or profit to the labor or capital invested in the production. The cost comes out of the producer, the railroad stockholder and the consumer, and goes to the profit of an accidental agency in the business. And by this means the railroad, designed and adopted to be a public benefit, by benefiting large classes, becomes a public oppressor, benefitting only its officials and employees, and imposing expense on millions of others.

FALSE IMPRISONMENT.

It is noticed, from time to time, that persons who have in some way got into limbo, and got out again, commence lawsuits against public officers for false imprisonment, generally claiming damages to a formidable amount. The late insurrection, connected as it was with political sympathies, gave rise to suspicions and prejudicial measures which had never before been reckoned necessary in this country, among which rose the arrest and confinement of persons suspected of treasonable connection with the enemy. But it is not that class of imprisonments alone which has occasioned suits against officers. And it requires no more than the success of a few such cases, to multiply their number indefinitely, to the utter overthrow of the administration of justice.

The rights of liberty should be maintained, and the persons of citizens should be secure from restraint by the wanton exercise of power. This is true enough. But on the other hand, arrest and confinement, on reasonable suspicion, even anterior to formal investigation, are in many cases indispensable to the ends of justice. But if the officer, before he issues or executes a process for the arrest of a person, must so understand the case, the evidence, and all the contingencies of the trial, as to be sure of conviction, it is evident that nine-tenths of the *criminal* actions committed would go unpunished. Such knowledge could not be obtained by public officers of the law, before trial; and if they were obnoxious to prosecution for false imprisonment, in cases of non-conviction, they would be shy of making any arrests at all.

Whether the sympathy expressed by many persons, in belief of criminals, have any influence in multiplying suits of the character referred to, we cannot determine. But it can hardly be doubted, that where the sympathies of political partisanship have any chance of being brought into requisition, by such suits, the opportunity will be readily seized, as a means of revenge upon faithful officers, for honestly discharging their duty. The consequence upon the administration of justice, it is not difficult to imagine. And it should be a very clear case of the abuse of power that should incur the award of damages.

PITTSBURGH is a most infelicitous locality, with respect to weather and all meteorological phenomena. In winter we have so many home made clouds hanging perpetually over the city, that we almost forget that sunshine is, before spring returns. And when the clouds of smoke are driven away, it is by a nothwest gale, and then it is so cold that the sunshine transiently let in, has no chance to cheer and warm us. Astronomers tell us we can have but five eclipses in the year. This is nonsense, to Pittsburgh, for we have more than that practically every week. Who has seen the sun for days, or the moon for months? And then the almanac eclipses—no account is made of them, for in the first place, we never see them, and, in the second, our daily darkness is deeper than a total eclipse of the sun, in the natural way, could produce.

A REPORT of the proceedings of the Republican members of the House of Representatives will be found in another column. They are of special significance, as showing that there is in the House at least a large minority in favor of such a measure. The agreement in caucus to refer the question and everything relating to it, to the Reconstruction Committee on the Judiciary, does not, by any reconcilute, presuppose an early report in favor of impeachment.

THE commutation of the sentence of death that had been passed on the Fenians in Canada, to imprisonment for twenty years, settles the question and opens another, for while it is settled that the men will not be hung, it furnishes a question for eternal agitation—their unqualified release. Are you for the release of the Fenians? will become the question to put to all who want Fenian votes.

THE Chicago *Tribune*, one of the few leading journals advocating free trade, was favored with an early copy of the report of Commissioner WELLS. In publishing it, the *Tribune* takes occasion to commend the document and to express the belief "that it will be in the main sustained and indorsed by the country."

IN Illinois the Senatorial contest is becoming lively. The principal competitors are Senator TRUMBULL, Gen. PALMER, Gen. LOGAN, and Governor OGLESBY, all of whom, except TRUMBULL, who is daily expected, are on the ground.

MR. COMMISSIONER WELLS recommends the reduction of the duty on whisky to one dollar a gallon. Mr. GREELEY thinks it should be reduced to fifty cents. Both think the law should be more rigidly enforced. There all the troubles lies.

GENERAL INTELLIGENCE.

An Indianapolis dispatch says: During the year 1866 there were 223 applications for divorce in this county, of which 111 were granted, 26 dismissed, and 36 are now pending. One hundred and forty-two petitions were from females, and eighty-one from males. The proportion of divorces granted to marriage licenses issued are one to eight.

Pursuant to a recent order, issued by the English Government, the garrison of Dublin is having in a large score of suit provisions, in apprehension, probably, of the city being cut off from supplies from the interior.

The Vicksburg *Herald* says that "the famous Davis's Bend cut-off has at length been made. The Mississippi river has thus been shortened eighteen miles. The chute is twenty-five miles below Vicksburg, on the Mississippi sides. We have heard of one boat going through, but we have learned that the water is deep enough to permit all. The "Block House," erected by the Federals, has been washed away. The surrounding residences of Joe and Jeff. Davis are therefore on an island."

In the first nine months of 1866 the total number of letters from abroad, delivered by carriers in New York was 7,683,222, and of City letters, 2,926,567; to which total 10,609,789 deliveries must be added to the delivery of 1,008,778 newspapers. Between the 1st of January and the 30th of September there were taken and delivered from the letter boxes 9,609,646 letters.

The Lawrence, Mass., *American* says one of the principal corporations in that city have given notice of a reduction of pay of their employees of ten per cent., and that others will soon do the same. The reason given is the depression of market prices for goods, and of the manufacturing interest in general. A large number of factory people are already out of employment.

The prospects of a good wheat crop in Indiana next season are very favorable, the late snow having afforded full protection from the cold.

At a private party of yachtsmen on New Year's eve, bets on the great yacht race were settled to the amount of $195,000. In several instances odds had been given on the Henrietta; in others odds were held on the field against her. The Henrietta beat the time of the last Cunard steamer by a day and a half.

Deceased Chinese, it is announced, will be the chief articles of export from California when the new steamship line between San Francisco and China is in operation. The Celestials cannot bear to be buried in a foreign country.

The European Governments are still arming. France expects to have 450,000 needle guns ready for use by May next, and Russia has ordered one hundred cast steel cannon from the celebrated works of the Messrs. Krupp, at Essen. They are to be paid $14,000 for each. Bavaria, too, is arming, having ordered ninety six rifled cannon from a Bohemian foundry.

The census of Chile was taken last April and has just been published. According to this census, the area of Chile is 132,000 square miles; the population is 2,084,946; the foreign resident in the country numbered 28,220; 852 of the inhabitants are from 1 to 100 years of age, and 9,956 are physically or mentally helpless.

PERSONAL.

—James B. Campbell, lately chosen U. S. Senator from South Carolina, is a native of Oxford, Mass., and is a descendant of the old Huguenot stock. The family have filled important positions in local affairs since the first settlement of the town. Nearly the whole of Mr. Campbell's active life has been spent in South Carolina, and he is now a leading lawyer in Charleston. Two of his sisters kept school at Springfield only a few years ago.

—Mr. James Lenox, of New York, is a very wealthy bachelor, and has a maiden sister almost equally wealthy. They are also active members of the Old School Presbyterian Church and very liberal in their donations for denominational purposes. A New York correspondent says that some years ago they attempted church extension by building small but comfortable houses of worship in different sections of that city. They were small but respectable houses, too nice for mission houses and not good enough for fashionable churches. Though they charged the rent, yet the Lenoxes held the fee, so that the houses could not be alienated from the worship of the Old School Presbyterian Church. The population of New York and the style and fashion ran away from these churches. The congregation would not repair and beautify a house that did not belong to them. The Lenoxes, thinking that beggars should not be choosers, would not do anything, and so the experiment amounted well nigh to a failure. Dr. Krebbs's congregation having been driven out by a foreign population down town, found a resting place in one of the Lenox churches on Madison avenue. They have succeeded in buying the house and will enlarge and beautify it. It was a hard struggle for the Lenoxes to abandon their plan and part with their house. The others probably will follow, but the money received for the sale will be devoted strictly to the cause of religion.

—During the visit of Congressmen to New Orleans three men sought an introduction to Benjamin, and stated to him that they were what had been from the first, and intended to remain so. Senator Wade replied: "Well, gentlemen, I am happy to meet you, as you are the first rebels I have seen since the war closed, the balance of the Southern people claiming to be Union men. Now tell me, if you please, how did you three men manage to carry through such a dreadful war against the government, and keep it up for four long years by yourselves?" The rebuke was silently received by the rebels and the crowd.

—One of the "capitalists" who accompanied Sir Morton Peto and his financial party to this country, Mr. A. W. Beach, has followed the cheerful example of his chief and of several others of the party, by "going through" bankruptcy. His debts are $110,000; his assets $4,000.

—The wife of Senator Sumner dispenses hospitalities at their new home in Washington with so much grace, that many of her friends are talking about movements which may transfer her to the White House, or rather to the mansion which it is probable will be built for occupancy by the next Chief Executive officer of our nation.

—Admiral Tegetthoff, whose arrival in New York has been announced, with an incorrect statement that he is a Russian officer, is a Vice-Admiral of the Austrian Navy, and will be remembered as the commander of the victorious fleet in the great action of Lissa last summer. That battle, it is well known, was won simply by his personal audacity. A correspondent writing from Austrian head-quarters, describes him as "a man of middle age, fine-looking, modest, speaks English perfectly, and has come over by order of the Emperor of Austria to look at our naval progress."

THE departure of the Colorado—the pioneer steamer of the line—for Japan and China, is an important event. She was to leave San Francisco on the 1st and proceed direct, not stopping at Honolulu, and expected to make the passage in nineteen days.

COPPER ORE DISCOVERY.—The editor of the New Castle *Journal* has been shown a piece of copper ore, which was taken from a vein on Conoquenessing Creek, in Wayne township, Lancaster county, which he says is as pure as any ever brought from Lake Superior. The finder of the specimen refuses to tell where he made his discovery, or in what quantity it may be supposed to exist.

THE *Tribune* has a specific for all our currency and financial troubles. It is a bill, to be passed in Congress, which is in these words: "A bill to provide for the Resumption of Specie Payment. 1. The Secretary of the Treasury is hereby authorized to borrow, from time to time, at the most favorable rates which may be obtainable by advertising for bids in open market, such sums as may be necessary to enable him to resume and maintain specie payment."

AN IMPORTANT COAL STRIKE.—On Tuesday, 25th ult., the company owning and operating the land formerly owned by cyrus Meridenhall, at the mouth of Rush Run, on the Ohio side of the Ohio river, a few miles above Wheeling, struck at the depth of two hundred and sixty three feet, a ten foot vein of what is known as Steubenville or deasilphuretted coal. This coal vein is only from three and a half to four feet thick at Steubenville, but increases in thickness as it descends the Ohio valley. This discovery at Rush Run was made while boring for oil, and the same vein has been penetrated by oil drillers on both sides of the river in that vicinity at three hundred to four hundred feet.

THE secret mission which Assistant Secretary of State, Mr. Seward, sailed from Annapolis on, is now said to be to arrange for the establishment of a United States naval station in the West Indies. His destination is Hayti, and his object was to negotiate with that government for the establishment of a naval station in the Bay of Samana. This will explain, in part, the great increase in the appropriation of two hundred and fifty thousand dollars extra in the deficiency bill, which Mr. Stevens very adroitly slipped in, and which was signed by the President on the 20th ult. Mr. Seward is accompanied by two Secretaries and the necessary funds in specie to accomplish his object.

We find the following very excellent recipe in a Boston paper: To cause a healthy glow to radiate through the body—Buy one or more tons of coal, take care that it is of a kind that will burn. Pay for it, and have it brought into cellars for the cartage. Have it distributed to the few poor people whom you know to be thinly clad, in poor health, and generally destitute. You will find your heart warm on the instant, and the heat will gradually extend to the extremities. This effect will be experienced more decidedly in the coldest weather.

COMMERCE THE TRUE CIVILIZER.—General Grant has written a characteristically sensible letter to the War Department, explaining that he does not believe that increased protection to the overland route could be afforded by additional troops. He says a standing army cannot prevent Indian outrages, and that the railroad across the plains, now rapidly approaching completion, will afford more security to emigrants than can be given by any number of soldiers.

A WASHINGTON dispatch to the Providence *Journal* says Secretary Stanton assumes the responsibility of the discharge of the three white citizens of South Carolina, convicted of the murder of colored soldiers. The dispatch says:

> "As Mr. Stanton is still something of a favorite with the Republicans, his policy will probably have to be accepted and the subject be dismissed."

MISSIONMAN W. Maynard, son of Hon. Horace Maynard, writes from the ship that carried General Sherman out: "When we first came here, Mex had all his baggage aboard an Austrian frigate, and was on the point of leaving; but to-day he had it all taken ashore again, and looked his proclamation."

PRICES DURING AND SINCE THE WAR.

The Report of Commissioner Wells.

Among the most interesting facts and data in the report laid before Congress yesterday by Mr. Wells, the Revenue Commissioner, are those embodied in the following extract relating to the advance in prices during and since the war:

ADVANCE IN PRICES.

A somewhat extended investigation respecting the advance in the prices of the leading articles of consumption and of rents indicates an increase of nearly ninety per cent. in 1866, as compared with the mean of prices during the four years from 1849 to 1862.

To speak more exactly, a comparison of the published wholesale prices current of about fifty of the leading articles of domestic consumption, embracing breadstuffs, coal, candles, coffee, fish (salt), iron, lead, leather, molasses, oils, paints, provisions, salt, spices, sugars, rice, soap, salt, sugars (brown), tallow, teas, &c., show an average advance during the period above specified of about 85 per cent. currency.

Of the above, the advance in breadstuffs is estimated at about 70 per cent.; coal (anthracite), from 60 to 70 per cent.; salt fish, from 70 to 75. Provisions—pork and beef—from 110 to 120; butter, over 100 per cent.; rice, 100; salt, from 140 to 150; sugars, from 80 to 90; iron, from 70 to 80; coffee, from 30 to 40; and teas, from 100 to 150 per cent.

As regards textile fabrics, the currency prices of domestic cottons in October, 1866, show a nominal advance over the gold prices of such fabrics in July, 1860 of one hundred and seventy-seven (172) per cent.; the advance in the gold prices in the same period on the premium on gold for the year ending October, 1866 being assumed as fifty per cent.—having been eighty-one (81) per cent. The details of this result will appear from the following table:

ARTICLES.	Prices per yd., July 1st, 1860, in gold.	Prices per yd., Oct. 1866 in currency	Ad pay ct 1860 to 1866.
Brown Sheetings, 4-4 to 9-8 other	6 a 10	19 a 24	190 79
Bleached Shirtings	7½ a 36	22 a 45	193 25
Prints	8½ a 14	32 a 45	285 167
Prints, Calicoes	8 a 11	20 a 22	113 45
Oil cloths	10 a 12½	17 a 26	94 27
Tea on Pacific ex 37 to 40 inches			100
30 inches	7½ a 9	24 a 25	191 101
Cotton Yarns	6½ a 15	24 a 33	146 63
Cotton Flannels, No. 1	8½ a 12	26 a 40	197 95
Do. do. No. 2	7½ a 10		
Average advance per cent			172 81

Of these a very large portion of the advance noted must be attributed to the high price of raw cotton, which has varied from 200 to 500 per cent. above the price in 1860.

A careful examination of the books of one of the largest cotton manufacturing companies in New England, made up in detail and with great care and accuracy, shows that the cost of manufacturing cotton goods in their mills in the year 1866, over the average of the years from 1857 to 1860, was 133½ per cent.

On manufactures of woolens, suited for ordinary domestic use, the advance is estimated at 83 per cent.

The increase in the price of blankets kept pace with that of other goods, but has now (December, 1866,) fallen to less than 50 per cent. in excess of the prices of 1860 61, or to about the prices existing in the years computed in gold.

The average in carpets have increased about 75 per cent.; three plys, of Lowell Company, and other best qualities, 83 per cent., while the advance on low grades and cheap tapestry carpets has been from 99 to 100 per cent.

The advance in the price of ready-made clothing has been as follows:

An invoice costing in 1860 and 1861, $100, was	$115 in 1862, $140 in 1863, $160 in 1864, $170 in 1865, and $180 in 1866, showing an advance in 1866 over the prices of 1860-61 of 80 per cent. currency.

On silk goods in general the advance is estimated at an average of a little over one hundred per cent.; the lower grades having advanced since 1860 at still higher ratio.

In respect to the advance in the prices of labor, the most full and comprehensive statement can at this time be made, owing to the varying nature of the conditions which enter into and affect the estimate; but, as the investigations of the Commissioner have extended, they lead to the conclusion that, as a general thing, the price of labor has not advanced in an equal ratio with the price of commodities, although numerous exceptional cases might be quoted which seem to indicate the contrary.

The following are some of the most interesting and reliable data gathered under this head, from personal examination or inquiry at some of the principal seats of the industries specified in different sections of the country:

	Advance in wages from 1860 to 1866.
Branches of manufacture.	
Agricultural implements	55 to 80 ₩ ct.
Agricultural laborers (in the Northern, Middle and Western States, average	50 "
Boots and Shoes—Men's	75½ to 80 "
Women's and children's	25 to 33 "
First class custom work, nearly	100 "
Car building—Skilled mechanics 60 to 75 per cent., laborers and unskilled 50 per cent., average	60 "
China decorating	60 "
Clothing—Ready made	50 "
Custom work	65 "
Copper mining	100 "
Cotton manufactures—General average of all branches	66½ to 90 "
Furniture—Cabinet	85 "
Hardware—Files	67½ "
Locks	66⅔ "
Saws	75 "
Hats, wool and fur	60 "
India rubber manufactures	80 "
Ink, printing	50 "
Iron—Founding	0 to 60 "
Rolling	25 to 50 "
Wire	75 "
Jute manufactures	80 "
Lime, stone and machinery	50 "
Machinists, N. J., average,	93 "
Machinists, cotton and woolen, average	60 "
Machinery, general average	60 "
Machine tools	66 "
Paper Hangings—Machine borders and block cutters	50 "
Paper Hangings—hand printers	72 "
Paper Hangings—Laborers	50 "
Printing—Composition	45 to 50 "
Saddlery and harness	75½ "
Shipbuilding	75 "
Silk trimmings, &c	nearly 100 "
Sewing silk	50 "
Umbrellas and parasols	47½ to 50 "
Woolen goods, miscellaneous	67 "
Artizans	85 "

The following estimates of the increased advance in wages (1860-1866) in the cities and states below named, were carefully made at the instance of the Commissioner, by intelligent and reliable gentlemen:

In all the manufacturing establishments in the town of Chester Pennsylvania, the estimate average increase is	20 per ct.
In Canton, Stark Co., Ohio, in the city of Worcester, Mass.,	87½ ₩ ct.
In the city of Baltimore, Md. Carpenters	100 "
In the city of Baltimore, Md. Plumbers and tinners	75 "
While in all branches of industry, including laborers as well as mechanics, the general average is	50 "
In the State of Ohio, where the large majority consists of farm laborers, the average is	50 "
In Massachusetts the increase in mechanics' wages is	60 "
while that of all employes in the State, male and female, and including farm laborers, is	50 "
In Western New York the increase in wages of skilled farm laborers has been	75 "
For month and day labor	50 to 60 "
Or from	50 to 60 "
For mechanics' labor from 60 to 100	"

The following are some cases may also be given as illustrative of the recent advance of wages:

A careful examination of a rolling mill in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, making band iron, showed a distribution for wages per week of five thousand two hundred dollars in 1860, against one thousand seven hundred in 1860 and 1861—the mills running to the same extent, and only employing exactly the same number of hands in both cases.

The average wages earned by melters, forgers and rollers, employed in the steel works of Pittsburgh, and working nine hours per day, during the month of October, 1866, was reported to the Commissioner as eight dollars per day.

The following cases of puddlers, who were asked to have been paid during the past year in the same city, in the manufacture of iron and glass:

Skilled hammer men, working on an average, five days per week per day; head nailers, superintending four machines, eleven dollars per day; puddlers, six to seven dollars per day; blowers of bottles and window glass, two hundred and seventy-five dollars per month. During four months of April and May, 1866, the rates of wages paid in certain of the glass works of Pittsburgh are reported to have averaged seventy dollars and fifty cents per day.

Bricklayers and masons have received from nine to ten dollars per day in different sections of the country during the past year.

The average advance in the rent of houses occupied by mechanics and laborers in the great manufacturing centres of the country is said to have been about initially per cent.; in some sections, however, a much greater advance has been experienced, as, for example, at Pittsburgh, where two hundred per cent. and upward is reported. In many of the rural districts, on the other hand, the advance has been much less; and in New England, where the manufacturing corporations are usually the proprietors of the tenements occupied by their operatives, little or no advance has been reported. In cases like the latter, where rents have not appreciated, the average rise in wages has been undoubtedly in excess of the advance in the price of commodities.

The general result of an examination and comparison of all the statistics gathered, would therefore, to the opinion, that the average increase in the prices of labor, since 1862, has been about sixty per cent., and of commodities, as already stated, about ninety per cent.

It further appears, that an examination of the United States Census statistics of manufactures in 1860, that the average monthly wages of employees, in all branches of manufacturing, was, of males, twenty-seven dollars and ten cents, and of females, twelve dollars and fifty cents; while, by the census of the State of New York, in 1865, the average monthly wages in the whole State was, for males, forty-four dollars, and for females, twenty dollars; being an increase over the wages of 1860-61, of sixty-three per cent. for males, and sixty per cent. for females.

*As regards the advance wages in the cotton manufactures are not given, but it should be stated that, as a consequence of the withdrawal of men for the war, and from the scarcity of skilled operatives, a much lower class and less efficient class of operatives was employed in the manufacture of this and other textile fabrics; and that consequently, a larger number have been required. If the percent. of advance in wages in the latter be the amount earned by the new operative of equal age and efficiency, in all cases manufacturing, the average would be nearer the higher than the lower rates specified in the table.

Why Russia is so Friendly to this Country.

[St. Petersburg Correspondence London Telegraph.]

The principles on which Russian society is based are the very reverse of those which constitute the foundation of the American society system; and if you talk either to Russians or Americans who have resided in Russia, they will laugh at the notion of there being any international friendship existing between their respective countries. Yet it is an indisputable fact that the Russians are most desirous to cultivate the good will of the American people, and to create the impression that the two nations are allied together by ties of friendship and mutual interest. The explanation of this policy on the part of Russia, is, I think, obvious enough. A war with Russia would be a far more serious affair for England if it involved a contest with America, or if Russia could rely upon the latter not taking part in it. The moral support from America which the late Confederacy received from certain parties in England. To say the least, it would be an important element in the consideration, whether we should go to war with Russia, if we knew that Alabamas and Sappahannocks would forthwith be launched from New York to prey upon British commerce under the Russian flag. Thus, unless I am mistaken, the real reason why Russian attaches such importance to her friendship with America is because this connection would undoubtedly strengthen her in the event of a war with any maritime power.

THE MILITIA OF THE COUNTRY.

An Important Bill Before Congress.

General Paine's bill for organizing the militia of the country is one of the most important of the present session. By its provisions all able bodied citizens are to be enrolled within sixty days after the passage of the act, and yearly thereafter. A national guard of two regiments of loyal volunteers from the militia is to be established in each Congressional District. A bureau of militia is to be established in the War Department, having at its head a Major General who shall be the commander of the militia, subject to the orders of the President and Secretary of War. The term of service is fixed at three years. The organization shall be the same as that of the regular army. The officers are to be elected by the troops, and commissioned by the Governors, who are to exercise all the authority over the national guard that is, by the Constitution, reserved to the States. The test oath is to be taken by all exercising authority. The Government is to arm and equip the troops, upon requisition and proper bond. There is to be an annual encampment—the number of days is as yet undetermined. On being called into actual service, the pay and allowance will be the same as the regular army. Congress is to have power to order the national guard into service to execute the laws of the United States, or to suppress insurrection in any State on the request of its Legislature. In case of war, Congress may order such a part of the national guard into service as is needed. All forms, uniform, dress, &c., are to be according to the regulations of the regular army. Four schools of the militia are to be established by Congress, with the same course as at West Point. Commissions in the army shall be granted only to graduates at West Point, or of these schools of the guard, or those who have served honorably, at least one year, in the militia or army.

It is reported that the Senate Finance Committee have taken up the Presidential appointments. A proposition was made and advocated to reject them *en masse*, but upon consideration this was rejected by one majority, being considered as no indication of spite, which would be unbecoming the senate of the United States. It was finally decided that the nomination of men who formerly acted with the Republican party, and who have served their country in the party with the presumed object of obtaining office, should be confirmed. In other words, the opposition has served in the army or navy during the war, or were consistent Democrats and good officers, the Committee will recommend the confirmation of the appointments.

The London *Times* has yet much to learn in reference to affairs in this country, and we fear that the visit of its principal owner, Mr. Walter, is not producing such good results as was hoped. In a leader of December 19th, on American politics, the *Times* says: "There can be but little doubt that Mr. Seward and, technically, President Johnson is more in the right than his opponents." We presume the *Times* would also think that legally and technically Mr. Stevens were more in the right than their opponents."

THE GREAT TONICS.

Bass' London Ale, pints and quarts.
Allsopp's London Ale, pints and quarts.
Jeffrey's Scotch Ale pints.
Guinness' Dublin Stout, pints.

The above brands are acknowledged to be the finest of Malt Liquor known. We also have a large and choice assortment of Medicinal Liquors, as Port, Sherry, Wines, Gin and Jamaica Rum, which we purchase direct in original packages, and guarantee to be of the above description. Also the celebrated Rye Whisky of Perkins Stem & Co.'s brand, which is almost entirely composed of malt barley and rye. And the finest Old Rye Whisky in the country, at 3 years old, at

McCLARRAN & McKENNAN, Druggists,
83 Market st. corner Diamond alley, Fifth st.

COE'S DYSPEPSIA CURE

Is prepared by the originator of the justly celebrated Coe's Cough Balsam. Mr. Coe has never prepared a medicine for public and general use, but what has stood the strongest tests and has always borne the palm of victory over every disease. It has been entitled to one. Will you who are suffering from Dyspepsia, Indigestion, Nausea, Sick Headache, Loss of Appetite, Costiveness, Pain in the region of the whole system, try but a single bottle? We will never say you can be cured, if we fail in this case. A pledge of a month, the united testimony of all who have used it, the unanimous voice of our own neighbors, your duty to yourself and the beneficial result, is certain as sunrise, we confidently urge you to try just one bottle. It will only be to restore to you the blessings of health, wonderful virtues are at hand to be true—if you do not say that the operation of this medicine is instantaneous and perfectly wonderful—we will renounce our claim to the same, per day in different sections of the country during the past year. Send for pamphlet, free from all advertising or inquiry at some of the principal seats of the industries specified in different sections of the country:

Branches of manufacture.	Advance in wages from 1860 to 1866
Agricultural implements	55 to 80 ₩ ct.
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The Daily Commercial

LITTLE PAT AND THE PARSON.

The sleeper at the door of the church peeping in,
Nor cares a single bradle is near him;
The preacher is talking of sinners and sin,
And it is Old Pat himself to whom he turns his chin.
A poor little fellow, alone and forlorn,
Who never knew parent or dame—
His head is uncovered, his jacket is torn,
And sugar has withered his beauty.

The white-headed gentleman shut in the box
Sees a growing more weary each minute—
He nods while fist and the cushion he knocks,
As if asleep to know what is in it.
But nods at the people who sit in the pews—
Put naught of any failings and princesses
(As with his little bare feet he delights in their shoes:
Tells rags he feels proud of their dresses!)

The little one exhorts them to think of their nest
To turn from the w. rld a dissipation—
Then asked to choose and the hungry to feed—
Fat dinners with strong approbation!

And when the old clergyman walks down the aisle,
And when the old clergyman walks down the aisle,
Pat runs up to meet him right gladly—
"Shure give me my dinner," says he with a smile,
"And I'll pocket—I will—them, quite badly!"

The kings and princesses in dignanity stare,
The needle gets word of the danger,
And, shaking his silver tipped stick in the air,
Looks angives at the poor it is the stranger.
But Pat's not afraid, he is sparkling with joy,
And cries—who is wishing to cry it?—
"You'll give me my dinner—I'm such a poor boy;
You said so—saw don't deny you it!"

The pompous old beadle may grumble and glare,
And say what about robbers and arson;
But the boy who will talk to the sermon stands there
And smiles at the white headed Parson!
The kings and princesses frown, wonder and frown,
And whisper, He wants better teaching;
But the white headed parson looks quietly down
On the boy who has faith in his preaching.

He takes him away without pomp or blame,
As eager as fairy to urge on,
For he thinks as do children and Pat thinks the same)
Is the moral that lies in the lesson.
And after long years when Pat, handsomely dress—
A smart Boatman—is asked to determine
Of all earthly things what's the thing he likes best,
He says, "Och sure, the master would scramble!"

What Supplies the Great Lakes.

Mr. George A. Shufeldt, Jr., replies that they get water from underground rivers. He calls attention to the fact that the surface tributaries of the great lakes will hardly make good the wear and tear of atmospheric absorption and evaporation. Yet the lakes are of immense size, and constantly discharge vast volumes of water through their outlets, Sault St. Marie, Mackinaw, etc., without sensible diminution. Hence, as there are no adequate sources of supply above the surface, we must look for them beneath it.

That the crust of the earth is full of water courses is a familiar fact. Illustrations are found in the Mammoth Cave, the Adelsbergh Mountains in Switzerland, the lost rivers on our prairies, and the Artesian wells which are now becoming numerous in Europe and in our own country. At Passy, near Paris, the augur struck one amazing stream of water eighteen hundred feet below the surface, which discharges nearly six millions of gallons per day, rushing to the surface with great power and velocity. This is strong evidence, certainly, of a great underground stream at this point. The great well of Kissingen, in Bavaria, at Munden in Hanover, at Louisville, Kentucky, Charleston, S. C., and hundreds of others, many of which are two thousand feet deep, discharging great volumes of water—all tend to demonstrate the fact that the crust of the earth is penetrated in all directions and at all depths with these streams and water courses.

At this point of the argument, Mr. Shufeldt asks his readers to "turn to the map of North America, and note particularly the point where the thirty-second degree of west longitude crosses the forty-fourth parallel of north latitude. Within a radius of five hundred miles, of which this is the center, will be found the great water-producing region of the West. In this elevated and comparatively uneven surface of the country, nearly all of the great rivers of the West have their sources and mountain beats. First the Missouri, with its innumerable branches and tributaries, among which are the Yellowstone and the North Fork of the Platte, the Arkansas, the Red River, the Rio Grande, all flowing from the eastern and southern slopes of the Rocky Mountains, and finding their way through thousands of miles of country to the gulf of Mexico. On the western slope is the Rio Colorado, which empties into the Gulf of California, and which is formed by the union of the Grand and Green rivers, the sources of which are also within the territory above-mentioned.

The same statement is true of the Columbia river, flowing through the State of Oregon into the Pacific, and of the other great streams and rivers which flow northward and westward into the Pacific and the Northern Oceans. Here, then, we have a radium from which a system of rivers proceeds in all directions but one. On the side of the great lakes there is no surface river of any size. Mr. Shufeldt puts this fact and the equally unquestionable one of the existence of the lakes together, and constructs his theory that the lakes are fed by subterranean branches of this river system, which finds inlets "at different points on the bottoms of the lakes, and maintains the supply with as much certainty and regularity as if the streams were running on the surface of the ground."

Personal Appearance of Mahomet.

Mahomet was a little above the medium height, strongly but sparely made, with broad shoulders and a slight stoop; his hair was black, and in the prime of life clustered over his ears; his moustache and beard were also black, the latter abundant and reaching some way down his chest; his forehead was large, with a vein on it, which swelled when he was angry; his complexion was fair for an Arab; his eyes were large, black and piercing, bloodshot and restless; his teeth were white and well formed, but stood apart; his walk was so rapid that people had to run to keep up with him, and his gait is described as being like that of a man striding down hill. He was simple in his apparel; he never wore silk but once in his life, and then threw it aside in disgust, saying it was no fit dress for a man. His general attire was white and red striped cotton; like all Arabs, he had no taste for comfort, and the luxurious refinements of artificial life were not known to him, or would have been despised had they become so; a bed of palm tree fibre, a low but of burnt bricks, with a palm tree roof would have been by him preferred to a palace. Still he was in some things of extremely delicate and sensitive taste, and in the use of perfumes and in his distaste for unpleasant odors. At Medina he once sent back a dish of mutton to the sender untouched, because it was flavored with onions, saying that they were disagreeable to the angel who visited him; he never traveled without tooth picks, and antimony for his eyes; he was a good listener in conversation, and never, in shaking hands, was the first to withdraw his own; he was not addicted to any of the games or sports of which the Arabs were so passionately fond, and was, in all things, most unlike the heroic ideal of Arabic character.

Japanese Jugglers.

A Japanese juggling troupe, on their way to Paris, has reached San Francisco, where some of their strange feats have been witnessed. There are in all about a dozen performers, and they will probably visit the principal cities of this country and Europe. One of their performances is thus described:

An old man lies upon his back with his feet in the air, a little boy mounts and stands upon them. An oval tub is passed to the boy, which he places under his feet and upon the man's, another is given to him which is added to the first, and so on until the little fellow's head nearly touches the proscenium from the top of the tottering pile, which is all the time supported by the strong and muscular chap below.

The little fellow makes his salaam to the audience from his dizzy height, coolly fans himself as he surveys the situation, and appears as unconcerned as if reposing on terra firma. Suddenly one of the performers utters an exclamation in Japanese, which is responded to by another, the old man, the foundation of the pile, takes up the chorus, the little fellow at the top jerks in out like the snapper to a whip, the "foundation" gives his feet a kick—things look squally for little Tommy—the audience fear that he will fall and break his neck or be terribly bruised among the boxes; the old man beneath appears in imminent danger also from the falling tubs, but no, he gives his feet a kick, throws the tubs entirely from him, and Tommy drops like a cat, alighting with his feet upon the old man's, and in an upright position.

Other surprising acts are performed, such as balancing a bamboo pole upon his feet, while the boy goes through a variety of gymnastic evolutions at the top, and performances of a similar character.

Varnish for Shoes.

It is a bad plan to grease the upper leather of shoes for the purpose of keeping them soft; it rots the leather and admits dampness more readily. It is better to make a varnish thus:

Put half a pound of gum shellac, broken up in small pieces, in a quart bottle or jug, cover it with alcohol, cork it tight and put it on a shelf in a warm place; shake it well several times a day, then add a piece of gum camphor as large as a hen's egg; shake it well, and in a few hours shake it again and add one ounce of lamp black; if the alcohol is good, it will be dissolved in three days; then shake and use. If it gets too thick, add a little more alcohol; two or three teaspoonfuls in a saucer, and apply it with a paint brush. If the materials are all good, it will dry in about five minutes, and will be removed only by wearing it off, giving it a fine gloss almost equal to patent leather.

The advantage of this preparation above others is that it does not strike into the leather and make it hard, but remains on the surface and yet excludes the water almost perfectly. The same preparation is admirable for harness, and does not soil when touched as lamp black mixtures do.

A WRITER at Crab Orchard Springs, Ky., gives the following: "Passing the drawing room, last evening, my attention was attracted to an exceedingly corpulent young lady, visiting the springs for her health. She was seated at the piano, and singing 'Do They Miss Me at Home?' I thought they did—about this time."

Who Wrote Our Hymns.

A very interesting essay on English Church Hymns was read by Sir Roundell Palmer, whose "Book of Praise," published a year or two ago, establishes his claim to a critical judgment on the subject, at the recent Church Congress, at York, England. A Churchman himself, Sir Roundell regards the Independents, as represented by Dr. Watts, as the real founders of modern English hymnody, and Dr. Watts himself as having written "more hymns which approach to a very high standard of excellence," than any other hymn writer of the language. Dr. Watts's "When I survey the wondrous cross," he speaks of as a masterpiece, and of the four first stanzas of "Jesus shall reign where'er the sun," he certain to command permanent admiration. He gives Doddridge's best hymns a very high place, and pronounces Toplady's "Rock of Ages" as "perhaps the best hymn in the English language."

Mrs. Steele is likewise assigned a high rank, "Far from these narrow scenes of human life," being mentioned as of particular merit. Charles Wesley, Newton and Cowper, it is hardly necessary to say, after these allusions, are among those who have most successfully cast Christian experience into the moulds of lyric verse. His analysis of the hymn writers furnishes interesting information concerning their religious connections. Watts, Simon Browne, Doddridge, Hart and Gibbons, of the eighteenth century, were Independents; Grigg and Mrs. Marshall were Presbyterians, and Mrs. Steele, Medley, Stennett Ryland, Beddome and Swain, were Baptists. The Methodist—in which he includes the origin of the Evangelical—movement of that century, was prolific of hymn writers, in the Arminian, the Moravian, and the Calvinistic branches. In the first were Charles Wesley, Seagrave, Olivers (the Welsh shoemaker who wrote the magnificent ode, "The God of Abraham Praise"), and Bakewill; in the second were Cennick and Hammond; and in the third Toplady, Berridge, Williams, Madan, Batty, Haweis, Rowland Hill, John Newton and Cowper. Most of these were clergymen of the Church of England, and some of them died in that connection. Arriving at the nineteenth century, the Nonconformists are represented by Kelly, Montgomery and Conder, while the Church of England presents the names of Bishop Heber, Sir Robert Grant, Bowdler, Marriott, Keble, Lyte, Bishop Mant, Anstice and Neale. Bishop Heber's "From Greenland's Icy Mountains," has thrilled the hearts of American missionary congregations for a generation, and Lyte's "Jesus, I my cross have taken," is becoming a favorite hymn in the ordinary religious assemblies. Of writers still living the name of Mr. Chatterton Dix only is mentioned, and a superb hymn from his pen closed the paper.

The American Colony in the Holy Land.

A letter from Beirut, Syria, November 23, gives some further accounts from the Maine colony that has settled at Jaffa, Palestine:

Mr. Adams—or President Adams, as he styles himself—is the prime mover and prompter of this Yankee emigration from down east in Maine to down east in Palestine. He organized the colony from members of a peculiar religious sect, called the "Church of the Messiah," who hold, among other points of faith, that they are of the tribe of Ephraim, and that, as the curse is now taken off from Palestine, the set time has come for the lost ten tribes to return to their land. The curse, or sickness and death is not yet removed, for nine persons of this same colony have already died within three months of their landing, and others are now on the bed of death. Mr. Metzler, at Jaffa, undergoing treatment. It is also said that dissatisfaction is arising among some of the colonists, who find there is fully as much "curse," and perhaps more of "cursing," in this Holy Land than they left behind in the land of the Maine law. A considerable part of the men are artisans, working in the employ of Mr. Adams, who undertook to come to Jaffa with the expectation of finding the land "flowing with milk and honey," and it is quite a while before they can get to find milk only to be bought at two piasters per ope, and honey hard to be got at any price. The colony had ample funds at the beginning, but they have invested so largely in land that their resources may begin to fail before the next crops come in. They are said to be provided with improved agricultural implements, and the colonial enterprise may prove useful to agricultural science in the East, provided that the colonists take the land as they find it, curse or no curse, and devote their energies to developing the agricultural capacity of the soil.

HOW A WEDDING WAS PREVENTED.—A Western paper is responsible for this account of a novel, but it seems successful, way to break up a wedding: A rich old dotard of seventy-five, living near Springfield, Illinois, determined not long ago to marry a trim young farmer's daughter. His son Frank opposed the idea, and went to work to prevent the match. With great detention he purchased a coffin and a horrid looking meat ax, and arranged them in the state at his father's house. Reversing the order of things, he declared the wedding baked meats should coldly furnish forth a funeral; that Fanny, instead of a bride, should be a corpse; that his father might have a funeral, but no wedding; that standing there at the threshold of his paternal mansion, he would, with that same sharpened meat ax, cleave her from crown to sole; that the coffin prepared was for her decent burial, and, finally, that he was ready for the murderer's gibbet. The old man was finally sent to bed drunk, the young lady went home in tears, and the marriage was indefinitely postponed.

SNOWBALLS.—Take half a pound of the best rice, put it into a saucepan with a quart of new milk; simmer it slowly, so that it may not burn; when it has absorbed all the milk, let it cool; then mix in the whites of two eggs; pare and core some middling sized apples; put a little sugar into each, then envelop them in rice, tie them in cloths, and boil them for twenty minutes or half an hour, according to the quality of the apples used. Turn them into a dish to serve, and dust them thickly with loaf sugar. The advantage of this dish is, that it employs the whites of eggs, and sometimes, after making custards or preparations which require the yolks of eggs, housekeepers are at a loss to turn the whites to account.

SPECIAL NOTICE.

RHEUMATISM OF YEARS STANDING is being daily cured by a few doses of METCALFE'S GREAT RHEUMATIC REMEDY, JOSEPH FLEMING, Agent, 84 Market street.

AMUSEMENTS.

PITTSBURGH THEATER.
A NEW ERA IN THE MANAGEMENT.
Engagement for a brief period of the Beautiful Sensation Artiste,
MISS ANNA LEVERING,
Who will appear THIS (Monday) EVENING as Queen Marguerite, in the great French sensation drama called
THE TOWER OF DEATH.
After which Prof G. W. Smith's GRAND BALLET TROUPE will appear in their Holding Divertissement.
The perfrmance to conclude with the Comic Pantomime entitled
LA MAITRE D'ECOLE.

PUBLIC LECTURE IN BIRMINGHAM.—The first Lecture of the course to be given under the auspices of the Mechanics Lyceum, will be delivered in Miss MARTIN'S Church, in the M. E. CHURCH Birmingham, on
THIS MONDAY EVENING, JAN. 7TH.
subject—PUBLIC OPINION.
Doors open at 7 o'clock. Lecture to commence at 7½. Tickets of admission 25 cents. The proceeds to be appropriated to opening a Public Reading Room in Birmingham.

TRIMBLE'S VARIETIES.
FIRED, AIMS.....Manager.
Here we are again! The irrepressible Smythe, Smythe, Smythe has turned up again, and with him a host of new faces, comprising the Misses Lizzie and Sallie Claston Miss Kate Partington, commediennes and dancers. The Keystone stars sing, dances and conglues (A. W.) Tommy Jefferson is back again with a host of new comicalities, all of which appear to right in a grand serio comic message, original and novel.

CITY MILL POSTER.
JAMES THACKERY
No. 5 Jonnson's Court, Diamond Alley, rear of Opera House.
A circular and cutaway wanting, says he small amount is packed in compositions pipe in this city. Allegheny and Birmingham, will be promptly attended to by leaving their orders at the "Commercial" office. Current by the year the principal corners in the city and ...ts a reliable use of the same. ja8-1y

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100 bbls. Flour
1 car Spring Wheat
1 car Chop Corn
6 bbls. Eggs
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6 bbls. Dried Apples
25 bush Beans
200 bush Peachblow Potatoes
200 doz Cheese
25 doz Corn Brooms
Dressed Hogs, Poultry, &c.
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Having recently purchased the EAGLE COTTON WORKS, formerly owned by Messrs. King & Pennock, we respectfully inform the public that we will continue
THE MANUFACTURE OF
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CARPET CHAIN,
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Orders may be left at the Office of the Works, corner of ISABELLA and SANDUSKY STREETS, Allegheny city, or at the PITTSBURGH BREWERY corner of DUQUESNE WAY and BARKER'S ALLEY, Pittsburgh.
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WEST CANAL STREET,
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We are now prepared to manufacture
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Coverlet Yarn, Candlewick,
Twine, Batting,
Cotton Wraps, &c., &c.
WEST CANAL STREET, between Robinson and Lacock streets, Allegheny city, Pa.
P.S.—All orders by mail promptly attended to. nov-vtu

EDUCATIONAL.

BISHOP BOWMAN INSTITUTE,
A Collegiate School for Young Ladies,
NO. 62 GRANT STREET.
The duties of this School will be resumed MONDAY, the 7th inst., at No. 62 GRANT STREET.
Having resumed the old premises, and our accommodations being increased, we are prepared to receive an additional number of pupils.
A few Boarding pupils will be taken.
Rev. R. J. COSTER, Rector.

PENNSYLVANIA MILITARY ACADEMY,
Chester, Delaware County, Pa.
The duties of this institution will be resumed on
Thursday, January 3, 1867.
A staff of thoroughly educated and experienced Professors conduct the English, Classical, Scientific, Mathematical and Military Departments of the academy.
Strict attention is given to the Moral and Religious Instruction of cadets.
For Circulars apply to the following patrons of the Academy, in Pittsburgh:
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Robert Wilson, Esq. | Robert Dickey, Esq.
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Col. THEO. HYATT, President of P. M. A.

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WHOLESALE AND RETAIL
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FOR SALE--REAL ESTATE.

FARM FOR SALE—
The subscriber offers For Sale his Farm, adjoining the Village of Sharpsburg, Allegheny county, Ohio and containing about 154 acres. There are on the premises a substantial two-story Brick Dwelling House, containing eight rooms, bricked kitchen, pantry, &c. A bank barn, 60 by 100 feet, with corn crib, &c. Sufficient arrangements for water and feeding, and other out buildings, such as Sheep Barns, Carriage Houses, &c.
A good apple orchard of selected varieties, very fine grape garden of the Catawba and Isabella, and a large variety of other fruits. The dwelling is surrounded with a fine lawn, and the location of the property is in a most desirable manner, and commands a pleasing view of the village of Sharpsburg and surrounding country. The farm is also well supplied with water, there being never failing spring. There are about thirty acres of good timber on the greater portion of the farm, of elevated rolling land and under a very high state of cultivation. The farm is said to be one of the best, or for town lots and suburban residences. Taken altogether, for fertility, location, quantity and quality, and all the appliances that contribute to make a desirable and comfortable home, this farm is not surpassed in Eastern Ohio. JOS. FAWCETT,
Salem, Columbiana Co., Ohio.

ORPHANS' COURT SALE.
The undersigned, by order of the Orphans' Court of Allegheny county, will sell at Public sale on
MONDAY, Jan. 14, '67, at 10 o'clock, A. M.
At the Court House, Pittsburgh, all that of of ground in the seventh ward of the city of Pittsburgh, situate on the northwest corner of Center avenue and Overhill street, fronting 40 feet on Center avenue and extending back preserving the same width, along Overhill street 160 feet, being Lot No. 12 in the plan of lots laid out by Jeremiah Easton, deceased, on which is erected a two-story brick dwelling. Terms of sale will be made known at the time of sale, or by application to
JOSEPH KAYE,
Guardian of the minor children of Jas. Reed, dec'd, or
ALEXANDER & HAY,
Attorneys-at-Law, 81 Fourth st.

FOR SALE—
The subscriber offers for sale his property in Connellsville, Fayette county, consisting of a fine large and well finished
BRICK HOUSE,
OF NINE ROOMS, double porches, with good pantry and back porch; all the rooms are ceiled, with walnut base, with cistern, a well of excellent water at the front door. Also a stabling, carriage house, &c. Lot contains three-eighths of an acre, with fruit trees, shrubbery, garden ground, finely located in the corner of Main and Prospect street.
Also, a LOT on Pittsburgh street, one quarter of an acre.
The whole is offered for $6,000, which is less than would be the cost of building. Apply to subscriber in Connellsville.
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CHOICE FARM
FOR SALE,
Containing 118 3-10 ACRES, located three miles northwest from Salem, on the line of the P., Ft. W. & C. R. R. Good orchard of choice fruit, large yard filled with choice fruit and ornamental trees; a great abundance of the different varieties of fruits and berries, excellent timber, never failing spring of water for stock, and well fenced. Inquire on the premises of
DAVID SHERRY, Salem,
Columbiana county, Ohio.

FOR SALE—
All the fixtures and appurtenances of an
OIL REFINERY,
Consisting of Tanks, Pipes, one still, hand Agitator, &c., &c., situated on the property of the late John S. Shriver, near Laughlin's Station, on the Pittsburgh and Connellsville Railroad. For terms, &c., apply to
JOHN TORRENCE, No.
M7H,S 102 Fourth street.

FOR SALE—
Thirteen Acres of excellent Land, property of the late John S. Cosgrave, situate at the foot of Squirrel Hill, and within five minutes' walk of Laughlin's Station, on the Pittsburgh and Connellsville Railroad, especially suitable for
Vineyard Purposes and Building Lots
For terms, &c., apply to JOHN TORRENCE, No. 102 Fourth street. M7H,S

FOR SALE,
One Large
BRICK DWELLING HOUSE,
Situated in the Borough of Freedom, Beaver county, Pa., containing Ten Rooms, with cellar. Coal House and Cistern. The house is forty-two feet long and twenty-eight feet wide. Possession given on the first day of April, 1867. Inquire of
MCCASKEY & KERR, Freedom, Pa.

FARM FOR SALE,
Situated in Penn township, Westmoreland county, Pa., adjoining Grapeville Station, on Pennsylvania Central Railroad, on which there is a good two story STONE HOUSE, containing seven rooms, a Barn, Carriage House and all other necessary buildings. The Farm contains 147 acres underlaid with a seven foot vein of Coal. There is a never failing spring of good water on the premises, and a well on it in good running order, producing 9 barrels per day. For further information inquire at No. 80 LOGAN STREET, Pittsburgh.

COAL PROPERTY
FOR SALE.
A TRACT OF LAND,
Situated in Elizabeth Township, on the Youghiogheny River, five miles below West Newton, containing 180 ACRES, well improved, 140 Acres of which is clear and the balance in the best of River Bottom; the hill portion abounds in Limestone, Flagstone and strong running springs. The Coal is of the best kind which is advantageous for loading and harboring boats. Inquire of
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Corner of Smithfield and Water streets, Pittsburgh, or of ROBT. FINNEY, on the premises. no28

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Grape and Currant Vines for Sale.
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Heavy Wool Undershirts,
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Fur Gloves, Calf Gloves, Buck Gloves,
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Balmoral Skirts, in all grades,
Real Lace Handkerchiefs,
Imitation Lace Handkerchiefs,
Fancy Linen Handkerchiefs,
Linen Cambric Handkerchiefs,
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Real Lace Collars, Cuffs, Lace Collars,
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Best Clasps, Silk Belting,
Fancy Combs, Dressing Satchels,
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CITY MATTERS.

To the Public and the Friends of Fair Play.

I presume the fact that a new Pumping Engine, (involving a new principle, by which sixty per cent of fuel is saved,) is now in successful operation in Birmingham, is perhaps only known to a limited number of the citizens of Pittsburgh and those citizens of the five Boroughs supplied with the water that obtains it who claim an interest in the welfare of the south side of the Monongahela. The principle alluded to is exclusively my own invention. I have devoted the best years of my life to the patient study of the various principles involved in the application of motive power, especially to the principles underlying the methods adopted for the purpose of raising water. I am encouraged to believe that the one alluded to is the cheapest pumping engine now in use, and I am not risking anything when I assert that it will raise as much water with forty bushels of coal, as the engine in the Pittsburgh Water Works has yet with one hundred and to the same height. When my engine was under process of construction, certain parties well known in this community as acted publicly that it (the new engine) would prove a failure. They asserted among other things that the engine "*would never throw a column of water more than a few feet at a time, four inches in diameter, and would not last six months.*" One individual who ordered ill on one occasion (which I have abundance of authority to prove,) during a period of twelve years, have exerted their utmost efforts to injure my reputation as a mechanic, and to keep up in a my projects and plans in life with a view to the benefit that might have accrued to them their fortunes had it even as highly devoted to a legitimate business. It is a notorious fact that once he is fairly started on his journey, truth seldom or never overtakes it. But to the present time has such the ugly individuals alluded to were persistent in their assaults upon the new pumping engine and openly ridiculed the invention as well as the inventor, now that the engine has accomplished all and more than I claimed for it, not one of these men have had the manliness to retract their errors or public sneers. Not satisfied with obstructing my progress, injuring me in that which is dearest to every man, and subjecting me to unnecessary expense, these men even attacked my friends.

I am very well aware that the public generally attach very little interest to private quarrels, and especially when brought before them in the shape of a newspaper controversy; but I conceive that this quarrel concerns the public more than the public at first glance would imagine; besides, a private individual should be ashamed to sacrifice his character, while a public officer, especially one who exercises the power invested in his office, against a private individual, can best be met in a public manner. The stand-point at which I stood during the construction of my engine have never been retracted. On the contrary, I have ever reason to believe that to my fullest effort of the secret retardation of the same prevented me from obtaining a fair hearing in a public ring city, during the last week, where I believe I would have obtained a contract. I make these statements not for the purpose of injuring others, but to secure a fair trial for the especial merits of my Monongahela and Pittsburgh Pumping Engines, and I now ingly ask Mr. Ernest, Superintendent of the Water Works, to give me a trial of the relative merits of the under such arrangements as may be made by a committee selected for that purpose.

PITTSBURGH, January 5th, 1867. JOSEPH L. LOWRY.

Police Items.

BEFORE MAYOR MORRISON—Georgiana Ayd made information before Mayor Morrison, of Allegheny, on Saturday, charging a negro named Henry Lovett, hailing from West Newton, with the larceny of a valuable sheet from her house, in the 1st ward. Lovett was arrested, but the case was settled by his refurning the shell to the proper owner. John Grimth, (a white lives in Mrs. Chaffer was arrested on a charge of wife desertion. He was accused of having deserted his wife last November, and refusing to support her since that time although he had the means to do so. He was held for a hearing. Also arrested was James Anderson, was arres ed by officer Sulli on a charge of assaulting and battering Samuel and Sarah John Rodgers. The information was made about a month ago but Anderson managed to elude the police until Saturday. He was lodged in the lock up for a hearing.

BEFORE ALDERMAN STRAIN.—J. G. Lowers lodged an information before this magistrate on Saturday, charging J. E. Niewind, a storekeeper on Pennsylvania avenue, with defrauding his creditors. The prosecutor alleges that Niewind was indebted to him in the sum of $37 90, and that he promised to pay him on Friday. Failing to do so, he went on Saturday to collect his money and found that Niewind was disposing of his goods at public auction, for the purpose, he asserts, for verily believed, of defrauding his creditors. The prosecutor had further alleging that from information received he learns that Niewind made an assignment of the goods in his store to his father-in-law, for the purpose of defrauding his creditors to whom he was indebted about six thousand dollars. Niewind was arrested and held in $500 bail for trial at court.

BEFORE ALDERMAN JOHNS—Alderman W. O. Johns, of the Seventh ward, committed to jail on Saturday David Morgan for the term of ten days, for contempt of court.

Pittsburgh Post of G. A. R.

A regular meeting of Pittsburgh Post, No. 1, of Pennsylvania, Grand Army of the Republic, was held on Saturday evening, at Connolly's Hall, on the corner of Grant and Diamond streets. The following officers were elected for the ensuing year: Post Commandant—Capt. U. B. Cook; Assistant Post Commandant—Major Samuel Kilgore; Post Adjutant—Capt. Lee S Smith; Post Quartermaster—Capt. D. M. Lowe; Post Surgeon—Lieut. J. L. Evans; Post Chaplain—Rev. J. H. Morgan. The following gentlemen were appointed delegates to the state Convention to be held in Philadelphia on the 16th inst., for the purpose of electing Department officers: General A. L. Pearson, and Dr. S. Morgan and Capt. Lee S. smith. The following committee on Membership was appointed: E. Hosack, corner Grant and Sixth streets; Wm. B. Wo. No 14 wood street; J. Hill Pittsburgh, P. O. All business communications must be addressed to W. H. Cook, or Lee S. Smith P. O. Pittsburgh P O. The Post adjourned until Saturday evening.

Orphans' Fair

The Orphans' Fair which has been held for three weeks past at City Hall, has met with such success that the managers have concluded to continue it during the present week. On saturday night the attendance was very large. The contest for the beautiful silver bar to be presented to the Fire company receiving the largest number of votes, still continues, and its quite spirited. At the closing of the "polls," the vote stood as follows:

Vigilant	1,208	Niagara 6
Columbia	1,102	
Eagle	127	Total 2,348
Fire Co.	27	

In the contest for the set of new harness, the Dispatch Company nearly stood ninety-nine ahead at the closing of the polls.

Fatal Accident—A Boy Killed While Sledding.

On Saturday afternoon about four o'clock, a named Patrick Dunlap was killed while coasting down the hill on Island avenue, in the vicinity of Manchester. The deceased had gotten upon his sled with his knees, and started down a steep part of the hill upon the street, struck a heavy rut, and following him over an embankment upon the Pittsburgh and Connellsville railroad, and fell a distance of the rails and fracturing his skull. As soon as he was picked up he was conveyed home, but he lived but a few moments. Coroner Clawson will hold an inquest on the body this morning.

"The Creation."—The Pittsburgh Choral Union

will produce Haydn's grand oratorio of "The Creation," at the Academy of Music on to-morrow evening. A number of our best amateur vocalists will take part in the oratorio, and the principal roles will be sustained by Mesdames Brown and Laughlin, and Messrs. Duffy, Meacham, McCandless and Kuntz. Prof. Manning will conduct the orchestra. The oratorio has been in rehearsal for some weeks, and will be rendered in a highly effective manner. Tickets can be secured at the office. This morning at Mc Candless & Co's, Wood street. No extra charge will be made for reserved seats.

ASSAULT WITH INTENT TO KILL.—Jacob Guckert was lodged in the Allegheny watch house on Friday night on a committment issued by Justice A. Arent, of Reserve township, on information having been sworn against him by Jacob Zimmerman, for assault and battery with intent to kill. Guckert was charged with having assaulted a son of Mr. Zimmerman with a red hot poker, burning him very severely. The accused had a hearing on Saturday, which resulted in his being held to bail for trial at Court.

RELEASED FROM JAIL.—The following persons were released from the county jail on Saturday, having entered bail on the charges on which they were committed: Wm. Calnes, committed on the 31 inst., by Alderman Strain, for false pretenses. Charles Golden, alias Dunlap committed on the 2d inst., by Alderman Morrow. John Rathers, committed on the 26 inst., by Mayor McCarthy, for assault and battery. James McBride, who was committed in default of the payment of cos s paid the costs and was released.

ALLEGHENY WHARF.—The contract for grading the wharf on the Allegheny river, between Anderson street and East Lacre has been given out by the Wharf Committee of the Allegheny Councils, and the work will be pushed forward with great rapidity; one hundred hands being employed upon it. The wharf at this point has been in a very bad condition for months past, and the grading of it has been much needed. The wagon along it. The Councils should improve other portions of the wharf during the present season.

LARCENY.—Charles Baker was arrested on Saturday morning by officer Barry, on Mayor's police, on a charge of stealing $4 in money from Mrs. J. W. Cowden, of Allegheny. He was committed to answer. Yesterday after noon a gentleman residing in the Sixth Ward, found a black coat in the street and delivered it to the Mayor's office, when he stated he had taken from a woman who was drunk. The coat can recover it by calling upon Chief of Police Hague.

MUSICAL INSTRUCTION.—Miss Birdie A. Moody has secured rooms at No. 91 Fifth street, above Mr. Blume's music store, and is prepared to give instructions on the piano and melodeon. Miss Moody, (who is a sister of the lamented Lieut. Col. Wm. H. Moody,) is a competent and successful teacher, and parents placing their daughters' musical education in her hands may rely upon receiving full satisfaction. See advertisement.

HAYDN'S CREATION.—In order to accommodate persons who desire to attend the prayer meetings held every evening this week, the Choral Union Concert will not commence until a quarter to eight o'clock. The rehearsal of reserved seats will commence at Mellor & Co's this morning.

TAKEN OVER.—Christian Hall, who was convicted at the present term of Court on a charge of larceny, and sentenced to an imprisonment of three years and six months in the Western Penitentiary, was conveyed to his new quarters on Saturday.

SOLDIERS' ORPHANS' HOME.—The soldiers' Orphans' Home, located on the corner of Bluff and Fifth streets, in the Eighth Ward, has now more children within its walls than at any time since its opening. The Matron is Miss Mary Stafford.

WEEK OF PRAYER.—This week will be dedicated to prayer by all the Christian churches in this vicinity, being the first full week of the new year. Services will be held in the churches every evening.

TRIAL FOR MURDER.—The case of Noad Smith, the colored man indicted for the murder of Mr. Heddrick on Fifth street, some time since, will be taken up in the Court of Over ad Terminer on Tuesday.

UNITED STATES COURT.—The first session of the United States Court for the Western District of Pennsylvania will commence at Erie to day.

GENTLEMEN of taste have decided unanimously that the most appropriate gifts of the season are the Wheeler & Wilson Sewing Machines, sold in great variety of styles and finish, and at reasonable prices, at the Agency, No. 58 Fifth street.

A SURE FILE CURE.—DR. Gilbert's File instrument positively cures the worst cases of Piles. Sent by mail on receipt of $1. Circulars free. Sold by Druggists. Agent wanted everywhere. Address J. F. Romaine, Manager, No 575 Broadway, New York.

The Truth about Dyspepsia.

Whoever says that dyspepsia is incurable, tells a—that is to says, makes an egregious mistake. More than ten thousand aggravated cases have been cured by HOSTETLER'S STOMACH BITTERS, while the number that have been prevented from coming to a head, by the same means, is incalculable. In Winter and early Spring, when the appetite is sometimes too vigorous for the comfort and safety of the stomach, indigestion is most prevalent and most distressing. Is the appetite to be balked to accommodate the digestive organs? Not so; for the frame would lack its due proportion of nutriment. The thing to be done is to STRENGTHEN THE STOMACH, tone the liver, and put the bowels in perfect order. Nothing will do this so effectually, so rapidly, so quietly, so pleasantly, as HOSTETTER'S BITTERS. This potent preparation trims and balances the system, and clothes it, as it were, with defensive armor. Chronic dyspepsia, liver complaint, and fever and ague are never known to attack those who are wise enough to invoke the aid of this great prev nitive.

Fire in East Birmingham—Destruction of Chess, Smith & Co.'s Nail and Tack Factory—Loss $40,000.

About eight o'clock on Friday night a fire broke out in the Nail and Tack Factory of Messrs. Chess, Smyth & Co., adjoining their Rolling Mill, located on the bank of the Monongahela river, corner of Joseph street, in East Birmingham. The Factory was a large, three story brick building, covered with sheet iron, and extended along the river bank a distance of two hundred and sixty feet, and up Joseph street a distance of eighty feet. The fire was first discovered in the East end of the building, near the annealing furnace, and it is supposed to have caught from a spark from the furnace igniting some loose and saturated sawdust scattered on the floor. The alarm was promptly given, and the hose companies from Birmingham and East Birmingham, and three engines from this city, arrived at the scene. The flames, however, spread with great rapidity, and by the time water could be brought into use, they had gained considerable headway. All efforts to save the factory were unavailing, and in a short time the building was destroyed. The rolling mill adjoining is so saved, although at one time it was in imminent danger.

All the valuable machinery, tools, boilers, and the stock of nails and tacks on hand, were more or less injured. There were in the factory one hundred and thirty nail cutting machines, of the improved style, and many of which were self-feeders. These, however, although damaged to some extent, are, of course, not rendered unfit for future use.

Messrs Chess, Smith & Co. estimate their loss at about forty thousand dollars, and are fully insured in ten companies.

There were employed in the Nail and Tack Factory about one hundred and twenty-five hands, who are thus thrown temporarily out of employment. The firm intend to commence rebuilding of the factory immediately. They seem to be very unfortunate, in a line being the fourth time their establishment has been destroyed by fire.

The Mercantile Agency.

The Mercantile Agency Reference Book, (published by R. G. Dun & Co., New York,) is issued from an institution founded over twenty-five years ago. The Agency has grown to large proportions, having branch offices in all the leading cities in the United States, Canadas, and one in London. The facilities that afforded the Agency have been brought into requisition in the production of the Reference Book just issued. This book contains the names of two hundred thousand business firms scattered over the whole extent of the country, and markings are given indicating the real and personal property of every firm. There seems to be a special adaptation in the key of the markings to all conditions. The discrimination which it makes between wealth and credit is an important feature of the work. Capital should never be trusted upon the basis of credit. Integrity, capacity, moral worth, and many other qualities should be taken into account in estimating a man's worth and responsibility. This Reference Book, by its peculiar system of marking, intimates all these, besides giving an approximate estimate of the pecuniary strength.

In considering the work in all its bearings, as a succinct statement of capital employed in the various branches of trade and the general condition of mercantile credit, as showing at a glance the relative commercial importance of towns and cities, (thereby affording bankers and merchants essential aid in determining the amount of their credits,) as a book to rely on in the Reference Book, as a business publication, it is entitled to the highest praise. It has already proved as a standard work by the mercantile community, and in this respect is under the charge of Mr. Edward Murray, under whose efficient and energetic management we have no doubt the reputation of the Agency will be maintained.

DISTRESSING ACCIDENT.—Mr. Samuel Hunter, an old and well known citizen, in getting out of one of his metal cars on Penn street, near the Fourth ward School House, Saturday afternoon, fell upon the ice, and fell, the wagon, which was in motion at the time, passing over his right arm and leg, crushing them in a terrible manner. He was conveyed to his residence, No. 140 Webster street, where he remains in a very critical condition. He is seventy years of age, and the shock is thought will prove too great for his physicians last evening to hope of his recovery.

IMPORTANT LAW SUIT DECIDED.—The important suit relative to the title of the Magnolia Cotton Factory, has been decided by the Supreme Court in favor of the Pittsburgh claimants, N. P. Sawyer and others. The property, on which the town of Tidioute is located, and on which some nineteen oil wells are located, is estimated to be worth over one million dollars.

THE ALLEGHENY TRAGEDY.—Mr. Henry Streng, who was shot on Thursday afternoon, at his residence in Allegheny, by his son-in law, Jacob Reiloldi, is still lying in a critical condition, and but faint hopes are entertained of his recovery. Reiloldi was committed to jail on Saturday by Mayor Morrison to await the result of Mr. Streng's injuries.

LECTURE IN BIRMINGHAM.—Miss Martha Glass, a talented young lecturer, will deliver the first lecture of the course of the Mechanics Lyceum, in the M. E. Church, Birmingham, this evening. Her subject will be "Public Opinion," and will be ably treated by the fair lecturer. She should have a large audience.

PRESENTATION.—The passengers on the early McKeesport Accommodation train on the Connellsville Railroad, upon their arrival at the depot in this city on Saturday morning, presented to the Conductor, M. Thomas Dixon, a well filled purse, as a mark of their esteem for him.

MAYOR'S OFFICE.—Eleven common cases were before Mayor McCarthy yesterday morning, and were disposed of in the usual manner.

THE INDIAN HERB DOCTOR, at 191 Liberty street, may be consulted free of charge.

Public Amusements.

OPERA HOUSE—Wm. Henderson, Esq., assumes the management of the New Opera House to-day. Mr. Henderson has been a resident of Pittsburgh for seven years, during which time he has successfully and gratifyingly managed the Pittsburgh Theater. He has hold of the theater at a time when the drama here was at a low ebb, and by his energy and perseverance succeeded in elevating it, and placing it on a more popular and prosperous basis. He has, therefore, had ample opportunity to study the dramatic tastes of our citizens, which are, perhaps, fully as exacting as those of any city in the country. His strong theatrical sense has always managed to secure the best and most attractive leading artistes in the profession, and during the present season the selections at the Opera House will be, we think, unexceptionable. The opening night will be on Monday next, when Miss Annie Leverage, at one time a popular leading lady in the theater of Mr. Henderson, will be seen for the first time in the character of "Queen Margaret," in a play with the dearfie title, "Henry VI." Miss Leverage has in our judgment in this play, we are promised some thing more cheerful in the shape of a drama. We presume a grand ballet under the direction of Professor D. W. Smith. The entire force of the theater remains as last season.

VARIETIES.—Manager Aims has secured the services of W. C. Smythe, the indefatigable manager, who will be in evening attendance at the stage door of this popular resort. A host of new comers are announced to appear this evening among them are the Sisters Waters, Miss Kate Partington and the Keyes sisters dogs.

MASONIC HALL.—Prof Barto, a distinguished prestidigitateur, is now entertaining the citizens of Pittsburgh at Masonic Hall, commencing on Wednesday evening. Many of the Professor's tricks are entirely new and would astonish Herman himself. Among others, the Indian Basket Trick is said to be quite marvellous and has excited and delighted crowded audiences for months past.

BENEFIT OF THE SOLDIERS' LEAGUE.—The Murdock Dramatic Association will to-morrow evening perform the "Robbers of Bohemia" at Arcadic Hall, for the benefit of the Soldiers' League of Allegheny. The ablest members of the Association are in the cast.

JAMES T. BRADY & CO.,
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BANKERS AND BROKERS,
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COLLECTIONS made on all accessible points. Unite States and Canadas.
INTEREST ALLOWED ON TIME DEPOSITS.

FINANCE AND TRADE.

SATURDAY, January 5, 1867.

The local money market is rapidly relaxing from the closeness which characterized it for several weeks previous to the New Year, and monetary matters are assuming a more comfortable shape. Business does not improve, and there is an entire absence of any speculative demand for capital. Governments, as an investment, are regarded yet too high to invite purchasers, and of late there has only been a meagre business in them in this market. As a general thing capitalists are shy of all securities that range above par. Parties holding large balances frequently suffer heavy losses by being too eager to invest for the sake of having their surplus means employed. Few can bear to see their money lying idle for any length of time. Yet after all the non-interest bearing balances are often found in these days to pay better than Government or other coupon bonds. Those banks and private capitalists that rushed into ten-forties, during the late flush times in the money market, for the sake of an apparent gain in interest, have had their profits in this direction more than counterbalanced by the direct decline in these bonds. Ten-forties, which are bought and sold flat, are quoted lower than they were two months ago, notwithstanding the increase of the accrued interest.

—The money market in New York to day is reported decidedly easier, and the stringency which was alleged to have existed was more imaginary than real. Stocks closed steady. Governments firm. '81 bonds, 108½; old 5 20s, 107¾; 5 20s of 1865, 105¾; new, 103¾; 7-30's, 104⅝; 10 40s, 99½. Railways closed as follows: New York Central, 112; Erie, 67½; Reading, 105⅝; Illinois Central, 121@122; Rock Island, 103⅝; Northwestern preferred, 82½. Mining shares are active and firm in prices. There is a growing disposition to purchase for a rise at the New York Stock Board, and the large amount of money disbursed at this season in the shape of dividends is propitious to that movement.

—The yearly dividend of 7 per cent, on the Preference Stock of the Erie was declared by the Board of Management on Friday, and it is further stated that the net earnings of the year 1865, notwithstanding the serious drawbacks, financial as well as material, for the first six months form out much better for the Common Stock than was talked of through the Summer We do not mention this, says the *Times*, by way of encouraging any hope of an early dividend on the Common shares of the road under its present embarrassing circumstances, but simply as showing what can be done with a property.

—The proposition to take from the National banks the right to count compound notes as a part of their legal reserve, is creating alarm among the banks, who see in it the seeds of a financial revulsion—the result of an arbitrary and violent change in the law. The withdrawal of the compound notes from the banks at maturity will force upon them a conservative policy which cannot fail to hurt by their contraction, who must pay up as fast as the banks are obliged to contract by the maturing of their interest-bearing reserve.

—The affairs of the Southern Bank of Kentucky have been liquidated, and after providing for all liabilities, the stockholders have received one hundred dollars in coin and twenty-three dollars in currency on each share of one hundred dollars. This management is highly creditable to the directors of that institution.

—A well executed $5 counterfeit greenback has just made its appearance. It is one of the best yet put in circulation, and is dated March 10, 1863. The counterfeit (in large figures) in the center touches the shading of the "United States," in the genuine it does not. This is the only discrepancy by which the spurious note can be detected.

PRODUCE AND GENERAL MARKETS.

OFFICE OF THE PITTSBURGH COMMERCIAL, } SATURDAY EVENING, January 5, 1867. }

The week closes upon a quiet market, there being but little activity to-day in any branch of trade, excepting flour, for which single items continue considerable of a demand. This demand, however, is mostly confined to home consumption. The demand for other articles is of a very limited character, and probably will continue so until after the present flurry is however, in most branches of trade, a good feeling prevailing, and confidence in the future is gaining ground. As to the time when trade will open, there is a diversity of opinion. Some do not look for it until spring, while others expect it in a few weeks. Merchants everywhere are deploring the necessity which exists for the closing of iron, lumber, and other manufacturing establishments, and hope that some financial measure will be effected for their continuing in operation. If they close, a good many merchants will do the same, and they will not have to do if the mills continue to run.

As usual the following review of markets, in various sections of the country, condens d from our daily mail:

HOGS AND PROVISIONS.

The Cincinnati Price Current, edited by George W. Phillips Jr., in his circular of Friday evening as follows: The market closes decidedly flat under large receipts of Hogs, both here and at Chicago, those at the latter point having declined 25c. Prices of Mess receipts have declined, and close dull at $24 25, grass, or $20 00 net. Receipts of the day are 8,416, of the week 41,121, and for the corresponding week last year 46,000. This season thus far is about 20,000 hogs behind last season. The average weight of the week's packing is 250 lbs net. Of the week's receipts, Mess Pork has ruled rather firm during the early part of the week, but has declined with the decline in Hogs, and closes dull and heavy. Prime has ruled steady and in fair demand, and from first hands may be quoted at $18 50@19 00. Bacon has been in fair demand, and prices have ruled steady, closing rather firmer. Sales of 1 car Sides, packed and delivered, at 10½c; 1 car Shoulders, packed and delivered, at 8½c; 1 car Sides, packed and delivered, at 10½c; 1 car Sides, packed and delivered, at 10½c; 1 car Sides, packed and delivered, at 10